

Declaration of Co-inventor Yury Zelenchonok
Traversing Rejection under 37 CFR 1.132

Being warned that making willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any patent obtained from this application, the undersigned herein declares that:

1. He received in 1985 a PhD from the Institute of Element-Organic Compounds of the Academy of Sciences of USSR, Moscow, Russia with emphases on organic synthetic chemistry.

2. Since then, he has worked extensively in the field of liquid chromatography (LC) applied to organic synthesis, including:

(a) a 1990 to 1993 period as a Post Doc. at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, when he worked in the field of enzymology and drug design where LC was a main tool of analysis; and

(b) a 1993 to 2003 period at G.D. Searle (which later became Pfizer Company) at Skokie, IL, when he was head of an analytical support group that provided expertise and services to the entire company of liquid separation mainly by means of LC; and

3. During these mentioned periods: he personally handled and/or supervised directly in the development and separation of thousands of LC analysis for internal customers; he authored or co-authored more than 30 publications covering the field; he was the sole inventor or co-inventor of 5 patents related to the field; he regularly attended and participated in annual and other specialized LC seminars and conferences; he was familiar, via direct examination or personal communication, sales and technical pamphlets, and Internet and other modes of information transfer, with the LC columns available from most if not every U. S. and international manufacturer in continued attempts to improve on and/or solve specific LC analysis situations; and he personally, or indirectly under his direct supervision, used many of these different LC columns in actual analysis situations.

4. In 2003, Pfizer closed the Skokie facility, whereby facing relocation but deciding to remain in the area, he took his unused

vacation and severance benefits and started with another individual also having extensive work experience in LC analysis and a Master of Science degree in chemistry, a technically driven start-up company originally named Allsep but later renamed to SIELC, located in Prospect Heights, IL; to wit:

(a) They, with their accumulated and specialized skills and backgrounds, conceptualized that the SIELC company should develop and commercialize a LC product that it could design, make and sell to a ready large field of users, where if the technical potential of this product was achieved and provided superior operational performance, the produce might be an easy sale and could be sought out by LC customers;

(b) They selected LC columns, which were highly technical, widely needed, expendable for repeat purchases, costly, and most importantly needed and used by people having substantial research and development budgets in almost any economy; and

(c) Their efforts lead to the conception of this invention and the SIELC company entry into the LC column business.

5. The undersigned is familiar with the now pending claims 16-19 being submitted herewith, and he believes that prior to this invention, no LC column was commercially available that utilized the structures recited in these claims; and all columns now being made and sold by the SIELC company utilizes this construction.

6. Commercial Success of Invention

(a) The SIELC company operating from its plant/headquarters in Prospect Heights, Illinois, makes and markets columns utilizing the inventive construction, of different bore diameters and lengths; the same being available for complete inspection at the company web site at www.sielc.com;

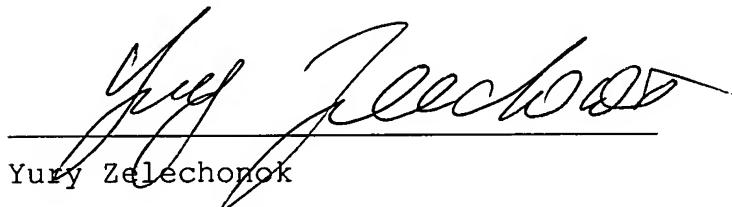
(b) It generates sales via about a dozen commission distributors located in the States, in Canada and abroad and/or by direct company contacts established independently in part because of actively making technical presentations at LC seminars,

conferences, and LC user's offices, throughout the world; and responsive to LC users reviewing the technical company publications on the above web site;

(c) the SIELC company sales of columns utilizing the invention have increased exponentially, from approximately \$50K in 2003, almost \$200K in 2004, and about double that to approximately \$400K in 2005.

7. The undersigned knows of no other manufacturer of LC products having a column design similar to the claimed invention, and believes its increasing sales history over this brief start-up period is due to superior performance versus the market for other competitors, and believes this is evidence that the columns were not obvious, as such competitors would have introduced such columns prior to the SIELC columns.

8. The undersigned herein declares that all statements made of his knowledge are true and all other statements made are believed to be true.



Yury Zalechonok

Dated June 28/2006